

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT CLIFTON DANIEL BYLINER, PAGE 22, MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, NYTIMES, HEADLINED "BUTZ DENIES U.S. DIET CUTS WILL EASE WORLD SHORTAGE".
2. WASHINGTON, OCT. 27 -- IT IS WRONG, SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE EARL L. BUTZ SAID TODAY, TO TALK ABOUT "EATING ONE LESS HAMBURGER PER WEEK" AS A CONTRIBUTION TO SOLVING THE WORLD FOOD SHORTAGE.
3. IN A TELEVISION DEBATE ON UNITED STATES FOOD POLICY, PRECEDING THE UNITED NATIONS WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE IN ROME NEXT MONTH, SECRETARY BUTZ DECLARED HIMSELF AS HE HAS DONE BEFORE, IN FAVOR OF GROWING MORE RATHER THAN EATING LESS.
4. AT TIMES DURING THE DISCUSSION, SECRETARY BUTZ FOUND HIMSELF A MINORITY OF ONE. THE MAJORITY CONSISTED OF FOUR

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NON-GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS ON FOOD PRODUCTION AND NUTRITION.

5. THE PANELISTS BESIDES DR. BUTZ WERE DR. JOHN A. HANNAH, DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE AND FORMER ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT; LESTER R. BROWN, A SENIOR FELLOW OF THE OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL; PROF. JEAN MAYER, A

NUTRITIONIST AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY, AND DR. STERLING WORTMAN, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION.

6. THE DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE ON A ONE-HOUR EDITION OF "MEET THE PRESS", THE NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY INTERVIEW PROGRAM.

7. AT THE OUTSET, DR. BUTZ, WHO WILL BE THE CHIEF UNITED STATES DELEGATE AT THE ROME CONFERENCE, DECLARED THAT THE WORLD FOOD SITUATION WAS SERIOUS, BUT NOT A CRISIS. NOBODY ELSE ON THE PANEL OF EXPERTS AGREED WITH HIM.

8. DR. HANNAH OBSERVED, FOR INSTANCE, THAT 400 MILLION PEOPLE IN THE WORLD WERE "NOT GETTING ENOUGH TO EAT."

9. THAT NUMBER, HE SAID, IS TWICE THE POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES, AND MORE THAN 10 PERCENT OF THE WORLD POPULATION. "AND HALF OF THEM ARE CHILDREN," HE ADDED.

10. LATER, DR. HANNAH REMARKED THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD MOVED "ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF THE WAY" TOWARD DOING ITS "FAIR SHARE" TO RELIEVE THE WORLD FOOD PROBLEM. HE WAS APPARENTLY REFERRING TO, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE UNITED STATES DECISION TO JOIN IN THE CREATION OF A WORLD FOOD RESERVE.

11. SECRETARY BUTZ CONFIRMED THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD, AT THE ROME CONFERENCE, SUPPORT A WORLD GRAIN STOCKPILE OF 30 TO 60 MILLION TONS. BUT HE INDICATED THAT THE STOCKPILING SHOULD NOT BE LEFT TO THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA ALONE. OTHER NATIONS WOULD ALSO BE ENCOURAGED TO STOCKPILE, HE SAID.

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12. SAYING THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD NOT "OVER-PROMISE BEYOND ITS CAPACITY TO DELIVER", SECRETARY BUTZ NOTED THAT IN THE LAST 20 YEARS THIS COUNTRY GAVE AWAY \$25 BILLION IN FOOD, SPENT \$900 MILLION FOR FOOD RELIEF LAST YEAR, AND WAS SPENDING \$1 BILLION THIS YEAR.

13. HOWEVER, LESTER R. BROWN, A SENIOR FELLOW OF THE OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, SAID, "WE ARE ONLY TALKING

ABOUT ONE OR TWO MILLION TONS OF GRAIN SHIPMENTS THIS YEAR -- VERY SMALL, JUST A FEW MILLION TONS COMPARED WITH EIGHT OR NINE MILLION TONS TO INDIA ALONE IN 1966 AND 1967."

14. MR. BROWN AND OTHERS ON THE PANEL ADVOCATED CHANGES IN DIETARY HABITS AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD.

15. SECRETARY BUTZ, ON THE OTHER HAND, SAID, "THE REAL NEED IS TO PRODUCE MORE."

16. "OUR FOOD POLICY," HE SAID "IS ONE OF FULL PRODUCTION. GOVERNMENTS DON'T PRODUCE FOOD. ONLY FARMERS PRODUCE FOOD. THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE DOESN'T PRODUCE FOOD, DR. HANNAH; ONLY FARMERS PRODUCE FOOD."

17. DR. HANNAH REPLIED, "MY ONLY QUARREL WITH WHAT MR. BUTZ IS SAYING IS THAT YOU CAN PRODUCE ALL THE FOOD THAT THE WORLD REQUIRES ON THE NORTH AMERICAN CONTINENT, AND IT IS STILL NOT GOING TO BE AVAILABLE" TO THE POOR PEOPLE OF THE WORLD "BECAUSE YOU CAN'T GET IT DELIVERED."

18. THE SAME POINT WAS MADE ABOUT THE VARIOUS MOVEMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES TO RESTRICT CONSUMPTION AND AVOID WASTE IN THE USE OF FOOD: WOULD THE FOOD SAVED REACH THE PEOPLE WHO NEED IT?

19. PROF. MAYER ADVOCATED A REDUCTION IN THE CONSUMPTION OF ANIMAL PRODUCTS TO PROVIDE GRAIN FOR THE HUNGRY IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

20. SECRETARY BUTZ SAID SUCH PROPOSALS WERE "UNFORTUNATE" AT A TIME WHEN "OUR CATTLEMEN ARE IN GREAT DISTRESS."
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21. DR. BUTZ SAID BEEF WAS MADE OF, ROUGHLY, THREE-QUARTERS FORAGE AND ONE-QUARTER GRAIN, AND HE PRAISED RUMINANTS -- CUD-CHEWING ANIMALS -- AS EFFICIENT CONVERTERS OF FORAGE INTO MEAT.

22. "WE DO WRONG," SECRETARY BUTZ ADDED, "WHEN WE TALK ABOUT CUTTING BACK IN THE CONSUMPTION OF MEAT, OR EATING ONE LESS HAMBURGER PER WEEK, FOR EXAMPLE."

23. THE OPPOSING VIEW WAS STATED AT THE END OF "MEET THE PRESS" WHEN MR. BROWN WAS ASKED TO OFFER IN 30 SECONDS A SOLUTION TO THE IMMEDIATE WORLD FOOD PROBLEM.

24. "SHORT RUN," HE SAID, "STEPPED UP FOOD AID FROM THE

UNITED STATES. LONG TERM, PUTTING THE BRAKES ON
POPULATION GROWTH." END TEXT. INGERSOLL

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